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Public Information Statement 26-39  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
120 PM EDT Fri May 1 2026

To:           Subscribers:  
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              -Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From:       James Gridley, Director  
              National Tsunami Warning Center

Subject: Notice of Coordinated Annual Tsunami Exercise for the Pacific  
2026 (PACIFEX26) May 5, 2026

The National Weather Service's (NWS) National Tsunami Warning Center (NTWC), in Palmer, AK, will conduct the 2026 edition of its annual national exercise for the Pacific, PACIFEX26, on Tuesday, May 5, 2026. The exercise will begin at 12:00 PM EDT / 09:00 PDT / 08:00 AKDT, ending at approximately 4:00 PM EDT / 1:00 PDT / 12:00 PM AKDT. The annual PACIFEX exercise is designed to enhance tsunami preparedness across the Pacific coasts of both nations with widespread participation from interagency partners to ensure readiness of the operational systems and platforms used by NTWC and the end-to-end dissemination of NTWC messaging and communications.

All messaging, including text products and graphical information disseminated throughout PACIFEX26 will be labeled with EXERCISE and should not be disseminated beyond the exercise space. None of this output will be posted to [tsunami.gov](https://tsunami.gov), NAWAS, nor will any of the mock alert products be disseminated through traditional channels. Interagency federal, state, provincial, and community partners/participants may choose to exercise their own response systems and communications based on this mock scenario and exercise specifics for their areas of responsibility.

Exercise-based messages, partner communications, in-event briefings, and real-time web-based chat will be facilitated through official NWS email accounts, dedicated partner web portal chat, phone and video conferencing.

During the exercise, the National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) and NTWC may activate Deep Ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunami (DART) buoys to simulate collection of real-time tsunami event observations. These exercise-based activities may appear in real-time on NDBC's webpage (<https://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/> for live DART observational data.

In the event of a significant earthquake or anomalous ocean water level event, NTWC will communicate an immediate end to the exercise and begin a tsunami event response.

Additional information on PACIFEX26, including the participant handbook and other materials for registered participants and for previous exercises may be found at: [tsunami.gov/?page=exercises](https://tsunami.gov/?page=exercises).

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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